ROBERT KIRKMAN CHARLIE ADLARD DAVE McCAIG

THE WALKING DEAD™

DELUXE

image

20 AUG

FINCH

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ANTERIORMENTE:

El viaje de Dexter a la armería liberó a los caminantes del pabellón A. Durante el tiroteo que tuvo lugar, Rick dispara a Dexter en el fuego cruzado y dice que fue una bala perdida, únicamente Tyreese sabe la verdad. En los exteriores de la prisión rodean a Otis, pero una recién llegada empuñando una katana, Michonne... le salva.

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HUMNGH.

GUH.

WHUD!

...

¿RUH?

THUNK!!

VAYA.

HA FUNCIONADO-- *REALMENTE* HA FUNCIONADO. NO PUEDO CREERLO.

QUÉ GUAY.

GLENN.

OH, HEY MAGGIE. ¿QUÉ PASA?

QUERÍA HABLAR CONTIGO--NO HEMOS TENIDO OPORTUNIDAD DE HACERLO DESDE, BUENO--DESDE QUE DISPARÉ A THOMAS.

¿TE APETE-CE?

CLARO-- FALTARÍA MÁS.

PERO, UH, PARECE QUE SON CASI LAS *TRES* Y ANDREA QUERÍA QUE NOS REUNIÉRAMOS TODOS EN LA CAFETERÍA PARA ALGO. ¿PUEDE ESPERAR HASTA ENTONCES?

CLARO.

VALE, VAMOS A VER DE QUÉ TIENE QUE HABLARNOS ANDREA QUE ES TAN IMPORTANTE COMO PARA CONVOCAR UNA REUNIÓN.

¿VIENE LORI?

NO, HOY NO SE ENCUENTRA BIEN. CREO QUE LAS NÁUSEAS DE LA MAÑANA SE HAN CONVERTIDO EN NÁUSEAS DE ***TODO EL DÍA***. POR LO DEMÁS ESTÁ ***BIEN***, ES SOLO QUE NO LE APETECÍA ESTAR DELANTE DE TODOS MIENTRAS SE SIENTE TAN MAL.

YO LA INFORMARÉ DE *TODO*.

SIENTO HABEROS HECHO ESPERAR. NOS COSTÓ UN POCO SUBIR EL CARRO POR LAS ESCALERAS. INTENTARÉ HACER QUE LA ESPERA HAYA VALIDO LA PENA.

PERO YA SABÉIS-- NO PROMETO NADA.

COMO HABRÉIS NOTADO, ME HE DESHECHO DE MI ROPA HABITUAL EN FAVOR DEL MONO NARANJA QUE HACE QUE AXEL PAREZCA TAN AMISTOSO.

COMO TODOS SABÉIS, NO LLEGAMOS A DAR CON UNA TIENDA DE ROPA DURANTE NUESTRO LARGO VIAJE HASTA ESTE LUGAR, Y AUNQUE LA MAYORÍA DE VUESTRA ROPA AGUANTA PERFECTAMENTE--***PRONTO*** NECESITAREMOS ENCONTRAR ALGUNA ALTERNATIVA.

SEAMOS SINCEROS, ALGUNOS DE VOSOTROS EMPEZÁIS A APESTAR INCLUSO ***DESPUÉS*** DE LAVAR LA ROPA. ESTAS PRENDAS HAN PASADO POR MUCHAS COSAS.

SNIFF

PROBABLEMENTE TODOS OS PREGUNTÉIS POR QUÉ ANDUVE LA SEMANA PASADA TOMANDO VUESTRAS MEDIDAS, ¿VERDAD?

COMO TODO EL MUNDO ESTÁ HACIENDO UN TRABAJO, O AL MENOS BUSCÁNDOLO... YO ME OFREZCO VOLUNTARIA COMO MODISTA. SÉ COSER BASTANTE BIEN Y ME GUSTA, Y ***ES*** IMPORTANTE.

BUENO, HE REBUSCADO ENTRE LOS CENTENARES DE ESTAS COSAS QUE TENEMOS Y ENCONTRADO UNO QUE OS QUEDASE BIEN PARA CADA UNO.

OS SERVIRÁ HASTA QUE PUEDA EMPEZAR A HACER ROPAS ***NUEVAS*** A PARTIR DE ESTO.

TENÉIS LOS NOMBRES PUESTOS EN LAS ETIQUETAS, PASADLAS Y DECIDME SI NO OS QUEDAN BIEN.

HARÉ PANTALONES CORTOS PARA CUANDO HAGA CALOR--Y DURANTE LOS PRÓXIMOS MESES INTENTARÉ HACER UNOS ABRIGOS USANDO LAS ALMOHADAS COMO RELLENO.

ESPERO QUE OS GUSTE EL NARANJA Y EL BLANCO PORQUE LO ÚNICO QUE TENGO PARA HACER ROPAS SON SÁBANAS Y MONOS.

SI ALGUNO DE VOSOTROS SABE COSER, QUE ME LO DIGA. SIENDO TANTOS COMO SOMOS Y SIN MÁQUINA DE COSER, SEGURO QUE NECESITARÉ TODA LA AYUDA POSIBLE.

AH, Y SI TENÉIS ALGUNA PETICIÓN, DECÍDMELO Y HARÉ LO QUE PUEDA.

CUANDO TENGÁIS UN MONO, PODÉIS IROS, ESO ES TODO LO QUE QUERÍA DECIR. PERO POR FAVOR, DECIDME SI NO OS QUEDA BIEN, TENEMOS ***CIENTOS*** DE ESTAS COSAS. Y NO DUDÉIS EN PEDIR MÁS--HAY ***DE SOBRA.***

LORI-- ¿YA ESTÁS MEJOR?

NO.

NO SÉ CÓMO ***PODRÍA*** ESTARLO. NO PUEDO QUITÁRMELO DE LA CABEZA, RICK. NO PUEDO DEJAR DE ***DARLE VUELTAS.*** ESOS MONSTRUOS DE FUERA SON UNA COSA, PERO CUALQUIERA DE LOS QUE ESTÁN AQUÍ DENTRO ***CON*** NOSOTROS PODRÍA HACERNOS EL MISMO DAÑO EN CUALQUIER MOMENTO.

THOMAS Y DEXTER ESTÁN ***MUERTOS,*** LORI. MANTENGO VIGILADA A MICHONNE--ESTÁ ENCERRADA EN SU CELDA POR LA NOCHE, NUNCA LLEVA UN ARMA, Y ***NADIE*** LE QUITA EL OJO DE ENCIMA.

AHORA TENEMOS MÁS CUIDADO-- AHORA ***TENGO*** MÁS CUIDADO.

NO PERMITIREMOS QUE VUELVA A PASAR NADA.

PERO AXEL TODAVÍA ESTÁ AQUÍ-- Y PATRICIA, ELLA-- QUIÉN SABE LO QUE ***PODRÍA*** HACER.

AXEL ES INOFENSIVO, PERO NO LO IGNORAREMOS, Y PATRICIA ES SOLO INCREÍ-BLEMENTE INGENUA, O ESTÚPIDA... NO CREO QUE ELLA--

LORI... ESTÁS ***TEMBLANDO.***

LO SÉ, RICK.

LO SÉ.

NADIE HABLA CONTIGO, PATRICIA.

SOLO DÉJAME EN PAZ. DÉJAME EN PAZ, *POR FAVOR.*

A *MÍ* NO ME HABLES ASÍ. CIERRA LA PUTA BOCA Y *ESCUCHA.* SI QUIERES *DEJARME--PERFECTO.* NO ME IMPORTA UNA MIERDA.

PERO LA GILIPOLLEZ QUE ME DICEN QUE HICISTE--NO ESTÁ BIEN. NADA BIEN, JODER. HAS *PERDIDO LA CABEZA,* CHICA.

DEJASTE SALIR A ESE ASESINO Y CASI TE MATA-- Y LUEGO--LUEGO IBAS A DEJAR QUE ESOS DOS-- NOS ECHARAN A TODOS DE AQUÍ.

TE PUSISTE EN *NUESTRA* CONTRA-- CON--

...CON UN PAR DE *NEGRATAS.*

SOLO QUIERO QUE SEPAS QUE YO TAMPOCO VOY A HABLAR CONTIGO. PARA MÍ ESTÁS *MUERTA.*

ASÍ QUE YO AYUDARÉ A LORI EN LA COCINA A PREPARAR COMIDA PARA TODOS. HERSHEL SE DEDICARÁ A CULTIVAR LA TIERRA. ANDREA HARÁ ROPAS TODO EL DÍA. ¿Y QUÉ VAS A HACER *TÚ*?

JUGAR AL BALONCESTO... TAL VEZ ECHARME LA SIESTA, SEGURAMENTE PRACTICARÉ CON UN ARMA SI ENCONTRAMOS MÁS BALAS PARA QUE ASÍ NO SE ME DÉ TAN MAL. EN RESUMEN--POCA COSA, LA VERDAD. NO VEO POR QUÉ NO PUEDO CONSIDERAR ESTO COMO MI JUBILACIÓN. LO ***MÁS*** PROBABLE ES QUE ESTOS SEAN LOS ***ÚLTIMOS*** AÑOS DE MI VIDA.

¡NO DIGAS ESO! ¡Y TIENES QUE HACER ***ALGO***, HOLGAZÁN!

¡TENGO QUE ESTAR DESCANSADO PARA LA PRÓXIMA VEZ QUE NECESITÉIS MI MARTILLO! ¿QUÉ HARÍAIS SI ESTUVIERA AGOTADO PARA EL PRÓXIMO ATAQUE ZOMBI?

OH, HOLA.

NOSOTROS, *UM*, NO TE VIMOS ENTRAR.

ALGUIEN DIJO QUE AQUÍ HABÍA PESAS. QUERÍA HACER PESAS.

SÍ. JUSTO AHÍ DETRÁS-- NO TIENE PÉRDIDA.

GRACIAS.

¿QUIE-RES--?

SÍ.

ENTONCES, ¿TE GUSTA ESTO HASTA AHORA?

¿EH?

ESTOY RESGUARDADA DE LA LLUVIA, TENGO MÁS GENTE CON QUIEN HABLAR, Y HACE UNA SEMANA QUE NO TENGO QUE DECAPITAR A UN MUERTO.

ME GUSTA ESTO, SÍ.

SUPONGO QUE HAY POCAS COSAS DESAGRADABLES AQUÍ, AL MENOS ESTA ÚLTIMA SEMANA.

AUNQUE LA SEMANA *ANTERIOR*...

ESPERA--TE *RECONOZCO*-- TÚ JUGASTE UNA TEMPORADA CON LOS *FALCONS*, ¿NO? ¿FUE EN EL NOVENTA Y NUEVE? ¿EN EL DOS MIL?

DIOS MÍO-- SÍ, *ASÍ ES*. PERO EN EL NOVENTA Y OCHO. SIGUES EL FÚTBOL, ¿EH?

SIGO A LOS FALCONS. SON MI SEGUNDA PASIÓN, DESPUÉS DE LAS PESAS.

YA LO VEO.

SI MAL NO RECUERDO, NO ERAS MUY BUENO.

ES *UNA* FORMA DE DECIRLO.

VENGA, TYREESE, DEJEMOS EN PAZ A MICHONNE PARA QUE PUEDA HACER EJERCICIO.

UN SEGUNDO, CAROL.

NO ES MUY FAVORECEDOR, ¿EH?

NO SÉ YO-- A MÍ ME PARECE ***MONO***. COMO SI FUERAS EN PIJAMA O ALGO POR EL ESTILO.

ESTÁS ***ENFER-MO.***

ESCUCHA--SI QUIERES QUE SAQUE MIS COSAS DE LA CELDA, SI ESO ES DE LO QUE QUERÍAS HABLARME-- YA TENÍA PLANEADO HACERLO HOY.

ASÍ QUE NO HACE FALTA QUE LO DIGAS. NO QUIERO ESCUCHARLO--SI ES QUE ESO TIENE SENTIDO.

EN REALIDAD-- ESO ES JUSTO LO ***CONTRARIO*** DE LO QUE QUERÍA DECIRTE. ¿TODO LO QUE TE DIJE CUANDO ESTABA ENFADADA? ***OLVÍDALO.*** ESTABA CABREADA--Y NO DIJE MÁS QUE CHORRADAS.

NO PODRÍA DORMIR AQUÍ SOLA--Y ME GUSTAS ***MUCHO,*** GLENN.

¿EN SERIO?

TODO LO QUE NOS RODEA ES TAN INCIERTO HOY EN DÍA...

MÁS ME VALDRÍA TENER ***UNA*** CONSTANTE EN MI VIDA--UN TÍO QUE SE PREOCUPE POR MÍ. ALEJARTE SERÍA ***ESTÚPIDO.***

ADEMÁS, NECESITO ECHAR UN POLVO.

LLEVAS RAZÓN, ESTO NO ESTÁ TAN MAL. PODRÍA ACOSTUMBRARME. DESDE LUEGO NOS AHORRAREMOS EL *"A VER QUÉ ME PONGO HOY."*

VES, TE LO ***DIJE.*** Y SIENTA ***BIEN*** DESHACERSE DE ESAS ROPAS VIEJAS, ¿A QUÉ SÍ?

YA LO CREO. UN PAR DE MESES MÁS Y TENDRÍA QUE PERSEGUIR A LA ROPA PARA PONÉRMELA.

AHORA A VER SI PODEMOS LIBRARNOS DE ESE ***SOMBRERO.***

ESO NO VA A PASAR, JOVENCITA.

UNA PUEDE HACERSE ILUSIONES, ¿NO?

DALE, ¿VAMOS A QUEDARNOS?

NO LO SÉ.

SÍ.

POR AHORA.

NO VEO ***RAZÓN*** PARA MARCHARNOS, AL MENOS DE MOMENTO. AUNQUE ESTATE ATENTA POR SI HAY PROBLEMAS.

TENGO QUE IRME. RICK QUIERE DESPEJAR EL ***PABELLÓN A*** ANTES DE QUE OSCUREZCA-- VOY A ECHAR UNA MANO.

DATE PRISA, ¿QUIERES?

EH, EH-- CÁLMATE, AMIGO. ES SOLO QUE TENGO GANAS DE PRODUCTO FRESCO. ¿ME SIGUES?

DESPUÉS DE COMER TANTAS LATAS... ¿ENTIENDES?

MIRA, PUEDO CAERTE TODO LO *MAL* QUE QUIERAS--PERO YO NO LE CONOCÍA Y PUEDO *ASEGURARTE* QUE NO ME *CAÍA BIEN.*

ESCUCHA, ESTUVE ENCERRADO CON ÉL EN ESA CAFETERÍA DURANTE ***MESES***, PERO ***NO ERA*** SU AMIGO. ADEMÁS, EL TÍO APENAS HABLABA Y ME DABA ESCALOFRÍOS.

NO SOY ESTÚPIDO--SÉ QUE SOY UN EXTRAÑO--Y SÉ QUE MIS COMPAÑEROS DE CELDA NO ***ME*** HAN HECHO QUEDAR MUY BIEN.

EL CASO ES QUE, SOLO SOY UN HOMBRE QUE COMETIÓ UN ***ERROR***, HE PAGADO POR ELLO Y ESTOY SEGURO DE QUE PAGARÉ ***MÁS*** POR ELLO ANTES DE MORIR--PERO NO SOY UN MONSTRUO Y BUENO, YO--

PREFERIRÍA QUE NO ME ***TRATARAS*** COMO TAL, ¿ME SIGUES?

PUES VALE.

ANDA Y QUE TE JODAN.

AXEL.

ALLEN.

OYE, AXEL. ¿CREES QUE PODRÍAS AYUDARNOS?

CLARO, ¿QUÉ NECESITÁIS?

REVISAR EL ***PABELLÓN A***, ASEGURARSE DE QUE ESTÁ DESPEJADO--VER SI PODEMOS ABRIRLO, DISPERSARNOS POR ÉL. NOS VENDRÍA BIEN UNA MANO.

HEY, DAME TIEMPO PARA DEJAR A LOS CRÍOS CON CAROL O ANDREA Y YO TAMBIÉN AYUDARÉ.

VALE, PODEMOS ESPERAR. ¿SEGURO QUE TE APUNTAS?

SÍ, CLARO. TENGO QUE HACER ***ALGO*** PARA AYUDAR, ¿NO?

VALE, ESPEREMOS QUE LA MAYORÍA DE LOS CAMINANTES SALIERAN CUANDO DEXTER Y ANDREW LOS DEJARON LIBRES. SI ESE ES EL CASO, Y LO ÚNICO QUE QUEDA AQUÍ DENTRO SON MERODEADORES... ESTO DEBERÍA SER FÁCIL--COMO LO FUE EN EL ***PABELLÓN C*** CUANDO LLEGAMOS AQUÍ.

YO ME OCUPO DE ÉSTE.

¡ALLEN--NO!

¿QUÉ? ¿NO HEMOS ***VENIDO*** PARA ESTO?

TÚ HAS VENIDO COMO APOYO... SI NOS ACORRALAN, EMPIEZA A DISPARAR, PERO HASTA ENTONCES, HAY QUE GUARDAR SILENCIO. NO TENEMOS NI IDEA DE QUÉ HAY AQUÍ DENTRO. PODRÍA HABER UN MONTÓN DE ZOMBIS AL OTRO EXTREMO QUE NO SABÍAN QUE ESTA PUERTA ESTABA ABIERTA...

LOS DISPAROS LOS ATRAERÍAN DIRECTOS HASTA NOSOTROS.

WHACK!

OH.

VENGA-- VAMOS A ACABAR CON ESTO.

ASEGURAOS DE MANTENER EL CAMINO DESPEJADO HASTA LA PUERTA QUE TENEMOS DETRÁS. PUEDE QUE TENGAMOS QUE SALIR CORRIENDO SI HAY DEMASIADOS. ESTAS SON LAS ÚLTIMAS BALAS QUE NOS QUEDAN. SI TENEMOS SUERTE, ENCONTRAREMOS EL DEPÓSITO DE ARMAS DONDE ENTRARON DEXTER Y ANDREW ANTES DE ENCONTRAR ALGÚN GRUPO GRANDE.

SI TENEMOS ***MUCHA*** SUERTE, NO ENCONTRAREMOS NINGÚN GRUPO GRANDE.

MIRAD ESTO.

VALE, HAGAMOS UNA PARADA. SI NO COMPRUEBO ***ESTO*** YA MISMO, LORI ME MATA.

KROOM!

CAROL VA A ***FLIPAR***. SE VOLVIÓ LOCA CON LOS POCOS LIBROS QUE HABÍA EN LA GRANJA DE HERSHEL. CUANDO VEA ESTO, ESTARÁ EN EL ***CIELO***.

Y LORI.

OH, SÍ--SE ME OLVIDÓ QUE LA BIBLIOTECA ESTABA AQUÍ. NUNCA LA FRECUENTÉ MUCHO.

AH, CHICOS.

¿ESA COSA SE ESTÁ *MOVIENDO?*

PUES NO. A LO MEJOR *NO* ES UN ZOMBI--PUEDE QUE SOLO ESTÉ *MUERTO*. ¿ESO ES POSIBLE? PARECE QUE EL TIPO SE QUEDÓ ENCERRADO AQUÍ DENTRO Y SE *MURIÓ DE HAMBRE.*

¿PODRÍA ESTAR SOLO MUERTO?

ALLEN, NO TE ACERQUES TANTO--ES PELIGROSO.

¡¡GRAH!!

¡AAAGH!

¡OH, DIOS!

WHUMP!

BLAM! BLAM!

BIBLIOTECA

ESTÁ BIEN, NO OIGO GEMIDOS, NI ECOS, NI NADA PARECIDO... ASÍ QUE LA MAYORÍA DE LOS CAMINANTES DEBIERON DE SALIR DE ESTE LUGAR Y NOS LOS CARGAMOS.

IREMOS MÁS RÁPIDO SI NOS SEPARAMOS. TYREESE Y DALE, VOSOTROS ID POR AHÍ. YO LLEVARÉ CONMIGO A ALLEN Y AXEL.

PARECE UN BUEN PLAN.

PEGAD UN *GRITO* SI NECESITÁIS AYUDA.

LO MISMO OS DIGO.

PERMANECED ALERTA, NO HAY TANTAS VENTANAS POR AQUÍ Y ESTÁ MÁS OSCURO.

SI LA COSA SE PONE MUY FEA, VOLVEREMOS A BUSCAR LA LINTERNA DE DALE.

ESPERAD, CHICOS-- AÚN ESTOY SIN ALIENTO POR LO DEL BIBLIOTECARIO DE AHÍ DETRÁS.

DADME UN MOMENTO.

BLAM! BLAM!

¡¡YEAAAAGGH!!

¡JODER!

BLAM!

ALLEN.

DIOS MÍO.

ALGUIEN HA DISPARADO A ALGO. ¿CREES QUE DEBERÍAMOS VOLVER?

NAH, NO OIGO GRITOS AHORA QUE LOS DISPAROS HAN CESADO-- SEGURAMENTE SOLO ERA ALLEN QUE SE HA VUELTO A ASUSTAR.

NADA SERIO.

SUPONGO QUE TIENES RAZÓN.

OYE--¿QUÉ TE PARECE ESTO?

NO SÉ, VEAMOS QUÉ HAY DETRÁS.

¿QUÉ ES ESO DE AHÍ DETRÁS? ALUMBRA CON LA LINTERNA PARA PODER VER.

OH, TÍO.

¿ESO ES UN GENERADOR?

ESO CREO.

DEBE DE SER NUESTRO *DÍA DE SUERTE.*

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: **WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM**

Hey, readers, Amanda here! Coming off the craziness that was #19, I love that issue #20 starts with a quieter moment on the other side of the fence. We don't often get a chance to see the walkers' behavior on their own, and you almost want to feel bad for the one who gets tripped up on his own intestines. Almost. In fact, this issue has a lot of little zombie moments that remind us just how dangerous they can be. Lori is rightfully more concerned about the humans around them, but if we've learned anything it's that you can't let your guard down, not even for the dead.

Just like the inevitability of more tragedy to come, we're back with some old Letter Hacks from July 2005.

Thanks go out to all you deads and deadettes for picking up our twentieth issue! The big two-oh! Ah, twenty, too young to be in love... too old not to be. It's good to officially make it into the big numbers on this book. Hope you people are enjoying the story so far, it shows no signs of ending just yet.

Our first order of business is to welcome aboard a new member to our creative team. As of this issue, Rus Wooton has come on board as our new letterer! That's right, kids, I'll no longer be personally throwing the word balloons on the page and pointing the tails at the person who's talking... that'll be all up to Rus. He's been lettering INVINCIBLE for about TEN issues now, so no worries, we're in good hands. I mean it when I say that aside from Chris Eliopoulos and John Workman, Rus is the ONLY guy I'd trust to letter the book. He's a real pro so I hope you'll all give him a warm welcome.

In other news. I don't know how many of you out there also read my superhero comic, INVINCIBLE but I just approved the printing proofs for the Invincible: Ultimate Collection hardcover. So that should be in stores NOW at the same time as this issue. It's a big, thick book... full of all kinds of goodies, on top of issues 1-13. So it's the PERFECT starting point for anyone who may be interested in how I write things that don't include zombies. Also, it's a steal at $34.95 and it makes an EXCELLENT gift. So pick it up. If for nothing else, pick it up for the introduction by Brian Michael Bendis.

So, uh... letters... you want some? Here you go!

Mr. Kirkman

Wow...been reading comics since 1990 (Jesus, has it been 15 years already?) and yours is one of the most entertaining. It's not often you find good storylines and interesting characters; and while I love George Romero's work to death, your book beats the unliving crap out of "Toe Tags." Anyways...I just have a quick question or two, if you wouldn't mind answering them.

1. Where the hell is the military? Being in the service myself, I admit to being a little one sided...but they couldn't all have been wiped out. Even if you did put all armed personnel in the city to protect the civilians, you'd still need military bases to provide logistical support (helicopters, air crews, munitions dumps, communication posts, etc.) During a national emergency like 9/11, military bases close their gates and have security levels that'd make Colonel Klink sit down and cry. I find it difficult to believe they'd all be over run...many bases have heavy brick gates or fences, much like your prison...it wouldn't be difficult at all to hold out.

We just haven't gotten to that yet. Sit tight.

2. A previous letter writer mentioned rigor mortis. Unless I'm mistaken, rigor mortis wears away after a day or two as the body decays, which brings me to my last question-

Hey, check that out... a good explanation.

3. Are the bodies decaying at a normal rate? I wouldn't think so, but I do wonder if you have some kind of formula as to how long it takes. If I recall, Dr. Logan in Day of the Dead mentioned something about the decay process taking nearly twelve years before a zombie would become immobile... but I doubt you're using Romero as scripture.

Looking forward to some more great reading

C.S. Muncy

The bodies are NOT decaying at a normal rate. They are decaying but it varies so much from zombie to zombie depending on climate, activity and so on... there's no way to peg down an actual timeline. Also, our characters are worried about more important things at the moment.

Rick has to die. There I said it. He seems to cause more trouble than he's worth, especially in issue 17 when he says.

"Listen to me, I'm a cop-I've been trained to make decisions like this. I'm the only one here in a position of authority... That's what you all look up to me for... I'm in charge"

He deserves to die for making such an egotistical statement. The person who says they should be the leader is the one person who should NOT be the leader. Be wary of those who desire power. Like

didn't we learn anything from Plato's Republic about what makes a good leader? I guess not.

KILL RICK

Best wishes (on killing off rick)
Wes Monillas

I'll get right on that.

Dear TWD,

Two letters printed! I am officially the envy of my L.C.R. (Local Comic Retailer). I shop at Comic Cave here in Columbus and it was Mike that got me started on your book. Most of the employees there seem to be big fans. I've been reading since №3. I collect both the monthlies and the TPBs.

Unfortunately I got №18 before №17. I know shipping can be a problem in the industry (I've given up on Ultimates), but I'm patient enough if the work is worth it. In your case it is. I knew Andrea wouldn't get killed (her and Dale just seem like they've got some major part to play down the road) so I wasn't surprised. However, I like that Andrew and Dexter got out and got guns, great cliffhanger (though with the cover of №19 I'm sure the new visitor will force a temporary truce of some sort). Each of the characters, Glen and Maggie, Herschel, Tyreese and Carol, etc. seem to be coming into their own. I can fully understand how the characters have started to determine how their story is being told. So far Lori is my favorite because, as crazy as it seems, she makes the most sense. I think the longer they're at the prison the more we're going to get to know these people and the better. Keep up the good work.

As for the art, Cliff Rathburn is making a strong argument for the unsung heroes of comics. Normally all the praise goes to the writer and penciler and maybe some leftovers to the inkers. Let's hear it for the gray tones (and I remembered his name this time).

For the record I was also one of those people that first thought Tony couldn't be replaced (I'm very grateful for his covers, №9 is the best to date, but №19 looks pretty darn cool too), but Charlie is a much better storyteller in my opinion. One of the other letter writers mentioned how Charlie gets the characters across through their eyes (one of the reasons Lori is a favorite of mine) and their expressions. I think Charlie is becoming well known for his subtle, and yet powerful storytelling. Like the zombies, it creeps up on you.

On to standard numbered questions (and you can answer in letter ala Bendis without apology):

1- What type of society do you see this little group developing? Earliest settlers tried a communal approach, but found that the work/reward (as is the biggest problem with Communisim) was dispersed unevenly. Rick is the clear leader (tribal patriarch) but soon he'll have to realize that he could be killed anytime and where would that leave Carl and Lori. Just a down-the-road type question.

You'll have to wait and see.

2-It seems Patricia is the resident "free-spirit" (setting Thomas free only to be attacked). We've also seen Herschel go from "caring for the undead" to slapping around his son for being "disrespectful". Will this become the foundation for "alliances" (ala Survivor), liberal and conservatives?

Would you really want me to give stuff like this away in a letters column?

3- Land of the Dead seems to be pushed up to mid July release. How many times do you think you'll see it in theater?

That all depends on how much I like it the first time.

4 - We'll we see the remnants of government by issue №50? (attempt to pin you down)

Probably NOT.

Keep up the great writing (or simply let the characters tell their tale and get the $%№& out of the way) and I'll keep up the reading.

Sincerely,
Merl Key

I'll do what I can. Thanks for writing Merl.

Dear Kirkman,

Well, it does seem that 18 got away from you. I know some have complained, but I like that the covers don't tend to truthfully represent the story inside. It makes the twists even more exciting. It's like Moore shows us what we expect to see (since he probably expects it at the time he draws them - before you loose control of the characters). So here goes:

1. So we're what, six to seven months after the whole zombie plague began? Are you very concerned with decomposition rates, or are you writing that off like rigormortis and other stuff that confuses things. Adlard's zombies are gettin pretty rotten.

I'm not concerned with it. There's always new zombies out there being made.

2. Are the zombies...getting smarter?

NO.

3. In issue 75, can we see the mirror universe where zombies are nice to people and have little Fu Manchus?

Maybe after the aliens come.

4. Tyreese got bit, didn't he?

Heh.

5. Could you give us a movie casting call for The Walking Dead movie? Who would Simon Pegg play?

Simon would be great for Hershel if he were a bit older. He

doesn't LOOK the part but he certainly acts well enough to play Rick. Hell, if I had my say I'd let Simon pick.

6. For Adlard (if available) - What kind of research do you do when drawing wounds and zombies? Do we really want to know?

Well, Charlie is somewhere in England sleeping right now, and this letters column is due to Image soon... so... I'll answer. Adlard has more than enough dead bodies around his house to use for reference. Just ask his neighbors... if you can find them. (I wonder if I'll be apologizing for THIS next issue).

Hey, Undead and Land of the Dead come out soon. I believe Tobe Hooper is working on a zombie movie too. If Invincible works out, maybe there will be a Walking Dead movie... One can dream.

Chris Pitts

We shall see. Hollywood is a fickle bird. Nobody can predict what may be just over the horizon.

Dear Mr. Kirkman

Zombies rock. There's no way around it and for some inexplicable reason I'll always be drawn to the Z Word. People automatically think it's the gore*. My response is a recorded one: "Zombies are a classic narrative device". They can be incredibly distant adversaries. They can also be the people closest to you. What better image is there than a husband impaling his freshly dead wife with a machete? You've got drama and horror in the same package. The 'Walking Dead' uses all of that and then some. It's got characters you can care about. It's got the violence that works with the plot. It even has *gasp* suspense. Thanks to your teams work, when people scoff at my Japanese DVD of "Zulu Cannibal Flesh Eaters PART XII" I'll be able to whip out the newest issue of "The Walking Dead". It's solid proof that zombie stories aren't restricted to hilarious disembowelments.

Sometimes you can actually care.

1. Do you ever feel pressured to put zombie action in an individual issue?

Obviously not. The zombie stuff happens when it needs to happen. It will come in waves. As the book goes on there will be large chunks of issues with consecutive zombie action... followed by large runs with NO zombies. I'll be changing things up as time goes on.

2. Will the zombies be getting smarter?

NO.

3. What do you consider to be the funniest kill in the history of zombiedom?

FUNNIEST? Something from Peter Jackson's DEAD ALIVE for sure. The priest getting impaled maybe...

I'd like to sign off by saying that the "Walking Dead" brought me and my brother together. We're such cheapskates that we take turns buying the single issues. Just for the letters page. The decision of who gets to keep the complete set hasn't come up yet, but just like Rick said "We'll burn that bridge when we come to it." It'll probably involve an axe, glue and a blindfold.

Sincerely (At two in the morning),
Justin Decloux

Here's hoping you survive the fight with your brother. Thanks for reading.

Mr. Kirkman,

I've never written into a comic book letter column before (yeah, I know I'm the millionth one to say that). Up until wandering into a great comic shop on a whim about two months ago, I hadn't been in one in nearly a decade. It's been great getting back into reading comics, and Walking Dead is certainly one of the best, and my personal favorite right now. I bought both trades and then all the individual books up to present. The storytelling and dialogue is incredible. I can't wait to get my hands on the four Invincible trades to get more of it.

All of this is why I was so disappointed when I finished issue 18 of The Walking Dead, the first issue I had to wait a month for. Thomas's death felt like a cop-out. You did a great job of creating an intriguing premise and raising a great question: how would this makeshift society deal with justice? I couldn't wait to find out what effect an execution would have on the individuals and the dynamics of the group (especially between Rick and Lori). And then you had to have Thomas shot in an act of defense, instead of dealing with the situation of an execution and its ramifications. After demonstrating such great skill in handling other unique situations (the barn is one great example), I was really disappointed.

Hey, you win some... you lose some.

I guess the fact that this event bothered me so much is the exception that proves the rule (the rule that The Walking Dead is the best comic being published right now). Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Schuyler Schuster

Yeah, that's it. Good point.

Kirkman and Co.

I have been loving this ride that you all have been putting us on. Just got done reading №16 (I know it is later than hell to just be reading this issue, but I order my comics over the Internet, and then read them in order of least anticipation to most anticipation: you know delay the satisfaction as long as possible!!)

Anyway, after finally making it through ALL those letter pages...(Goddamn man, who d'you think you

are, BENDIS!?) I finally decided to break down and write you and let you know what a great job you have been doing. I love this book! I have been a fan of yours and Tony's since Battle Pope №1 (BTW, Congrats on getting those in color, I'm looking forward to seeing it, although Tony's style works really well in B & W) and you guys never disappoint. Charlie has been doing great since Tony left, but I still get to see Tony's work first thing. I took the hint about sharing the love around, and a huge Thumbs up to Cliff, those Gray Tones are great and just the right edge to the panels. That letterer you got could use some practice :) I have never been a huge fan of horror books, I can read them and enjoy them, but usually don't buy them. I jumped on this because of you and Tony to give it a try, and you have gotten me hooked!

I really like the idea with the jail, although it was kind of a letdown seeing the accountant doing all the killing. I kinda figured that was what was going to happen, everyone thinks accountants are only white-collar criminals...BUT it being tax season and all, I guess you just couldn't let it get by. Being an accountant myself, I know I definitely felt like cutting off a few heads by the end of tax season.

Keep up the great work!
Patrick Geer

It's always good to hear from people who found this book because of the work Tony Moore and I did on Battle Pope. You guys are the best. Where were the REST of you five years ago?!

Kirkman,

I just read issues 17 and 18, and 17 is one I've been waiting for. I loved seeing Rick finally snap. We've been building to this moment since the first issue, and it's definitely a turning point for the series. You said when you started this series that the Rick at the end would be nothing like the Rick in the first issue, and I think we're already at that point.

It just gets worse from here.

I do have to say I was a bit disappointed with the way things turned out for Thomas in issue 18. You had a guy hanging on the cover, then totally switch it up. I guess that's what you were talking about when you said the story wrote itself. Having him shot to death and thrown to the zombies just seemed too easy for him. He killed two little girls! He deserved to suffer much longer! I'm also very interested to know what development you had planned but decided to put off. I'm assuming you still plan to use it later, but when you do, can you let us know what the original plan was for this issue?

IF I still do it... I'll make sure to let you guys know.

I do really enjoy how Rick's taking charge now. He's been the leader all along, but now he's being faced with some very difficult decisions where he can't necessarily make everyone happy. How the others react to his control (especially Lori!) will be very interesting. We're also really beginning to see the tension between Rick and Lori build up. Now, I'm really looking forward to that coming to a head.

I'm keeping it short this time... You're whole team is doing a great job, which gives me very little to complain about in my letters. Keep it up!

Jim Amato

Good to hear from you, Jim.

Dude,

Just wanted to let you know this comic is still the nuts. ***("The Nuts?")*** Definitely my most anticipated monthly. Issue 18 ruled. I am glad that Thomas didn't get hung and that Maggie shot him. One thing about seeing next month's cover is it gives you a little hint of what's coming. So, I take it you originally planned to hang him, but changed it at the last minute? Whatever, it was a nice touch.

If a good idea comes to me, and it doesn't match the cover... I'm not going to be bound to what's on the cover. I'd much prefer to do the better story. All the covers are designed to mislead you anyway so they're ALWAYS at least a little inaccurate.

Great idea adding the who's who at the end. With buying it monthly, it is good to have the reminder. Just one thing though. Under the picture of Lori you said that Rick was unaware of the affair. Yet in a previous issue, after Lori announces to the group she is pregnant, Dale mentions the possibility of Shane and Lori to Rick, and he flips out! Babbling about only getting laid once since he got back.!!

So, was that a mistake or what?

He may SUSPECT but he's not SURE it happened. More on this story as it develops—stay tuned.

keep it up dude. And man, the cliffhanger endings are awesome!

Daniel Aston

Thanks. The cliffhangers are the most fun part for me.

First Thomas kills the girls and then tries to get Andrea as well. Then Rick beats the holy crap out of him. Now that's dark but when we see Andrea's face and Rick's hands up close in №18, you know things are getting darker.

Are we done yet? No way. Glenn and Tyreese are keeping the killer under cruel conditions and then after that nutball Patricia tries to help him escape Maggie unloads her gun into Thomas! WTF?

Dark, dark, dark! I love it! Here I was expecting a hanging too. The story line and cover ended up being a great red hearing.

But wait, are we done yet? Hell no! Dexter and his

bitch boy Andrew have plans of their own. This just keeps getting better and better.

The cover of №19 looks great btw. I dig the way the dead's arms and lower jaws are removed for safety.

In №18's Letter Hacks Merl Key asks about Rick fetching Morgan and his boy. I like this idea a lot and hope we see more of them.

Morgan and Duane are still out there... somewhere.

BTW, being a F4 nut I couldn't hold out any longer and picked up foes 1-4. I'm glad I did.

Along for the ride and loving it!
Chad Cayler

Thanks for checking out Foes, man. I really appreciate it. I think it's a fun book. I had a blast writing it.

Finally, finally, I just want to say thank you Mr. Kirkman for making the best zombie comic book ever. I mean HOLY SHIT it's everything you ever wanted in a zombie comic or movie, suspense, horror, gore, action and characters you love and hate. I first got the comic at №11, yeah I know I jumped in late but I'm going to do everything I can do to get the back issues, but everywhere I go no one seems to have any back ones, just goes to show how HOT these things are. Now on to the comic, I've been reading on how Mr.Adlard is not as good as Mr.Moore but Adlard drawings are incredible and very well detailed and I don't know how you can get any better then that, so people please, LAY OFF. As for your writing top notch very impressive, it really gets you into the characters mind and makes us feel how they're feeling, very well done. I have been one of the biggest and I mean BIGGEST zombie fan since I was 7 years old. My favourite zombie movie is Day of the Dead, I probably love it more then you. Hell I love this stuff so much I wish one day the dead would really come back to life. I know that sounds crazy, but here are some questions I hope you have time to answer.

1. What zombie movie do you hate the most? And why? For me it was Return of the living dead 3, it was too much of a love story and just a joke.

I can honestly say I've NEVER hated any zombie movie I've ever watched.

2. If you were in a zombie movie what role would you want to play? Survivor, A zombie that gets killed in a gory way, A zombie that's eats somebody or someone who gets torn apart by dozens of zombies. Me I would love being torn apart, it would be such a thrill.

Human victim is cool... but I'd love being a zombie too... as long as I didn't have to rub raw animal parts on my face or anything. That's just nasty.

3. Have you heard of the movie risen, it looks and sounds scary as hell and if you haven't go to www.risenthemovie.com you won't be disappointed.

I'll have to check that out.

4. Which one do you prefer, Night of the Living Dead original or remake? I like the remake, it's more believable but don't get me wrong the original is a classic.

The original... because it's the original... but the remake is AWESOME. It's a much better remake than the Dawn remake and I LIKE the Dawn remake. I think Tom Savini did a GREAT job on that remake.

5. Did you hear that Land Of The Dead has been moved up to June? When or if you see it, will you write down what you thought of the movie?

I can't wait until I get to the letter that says it's been moved up to May. Heh. But yeah—June 28th! I can't wait! I will have seen it by the time this sees print. It's going to be awesome!

I hope nobody has asked you these questions before me, and if they did I'm sorry. *(Hey—if they did—I already forgot answering them, so no worries)* I hope you print my letter so I can be somewhat part of this walking dead world. So Mr.Kirkman and the whole crew involved keep up the fantastic job. I will always be here and loyal until the end, so signing off (feeling a little hungry)

Adam Carter

Your letter got printed, Adam! Congrats!

Robert,

There was a time, recently, that I bought nothing but Marvel Comics. If it wasn't Marvel, I didn't buy it.

The Walking Dead has changed all that. This comic is the very essence of awesome in its purest, most natural form. For creating it, I hail to you! HAIL ROBERT KIRKMAN!

That's great—now go out and buy Savage Dragon, Sin City, Hellboy, Noble Causes, Ultra, Ministry of Space, Wanted, The Intimates *and the BILLIONS of other books that are just as good as anything Marvel has put out.*

Anyway, on to business: If you were actually to put aliens in at around issue 75, or maybe killer robots, or something else like that, I will personally send you $200 for being the best human ever to live. Anyone who wouldn't send you $200 is probably a jerk. Buncha jerks.

Lewis Watts, Zombie lover for life

P.S.- Seriously. $200.

$200 for something I'm going to do anyway—SOLD! You're not a very bright man Lewis Watts... and I love you for it!

Mr. Kirkman,

First let me tell you that I have been watching

zombie movies since I was about 6 *lets just say I had a messed up child hood*, and when I came across your book at issue №4 I was excited, I could tell from the cover that this was going to be good. Since then I have been buying your books left and right, the guys at my local comic shop know me when I walk in and they immediately tell me if the new issue is in or not, the funny thing is I never started going to that shop until my friend told me of this comic. I think you got this down just right, the endings to each issue just amazes me so much, my favorite one is when Carl shoots Shane, I could hear that gun shoot and smell the burnt powder of the round. Your plots and writing are great and Adlard and Rathburn are some of the most talented artists I have ever seen.

Also I got a few questions,

1) first off I live in the metroplex in Texas and heard that you guys were here in Dallas a while ago! and I missed you guys, So I was wondering if you will be coming back to Dallas any time soon? If so when?

At the latest it will be next year when ZEUS COMICS throws CAPE! 2006. Not sure if I'll be there before that. You should have come to CAPE! this year... it was GREAT!

2) Second of all I been having a debate with my friend on what gun Rick is hold on the cover of issue №4 *I personally think it is a H&K USP 9mm* my friend thinks it is not any particular gun.

You're right, it's an H&K USP 9mm... Tony Moore knows his guns... because he, like Charlie Adlard... is a murderer.

3) And third and final, have you ever read this book called "The Complete Survival Guide of The Undead"? If not you should give it a shot the author writes it like Zombies actually have attacked the world before, and writes it with a serious tone. Well that is all I really looking for the "big surprise" for issue 25.

Sincerely,
Steven Ojeda

You mean the zombie survival guide? Could there REALLY be TWO books out there like that?

Robert

Well, sorry to say you got another first time letter writer here. Anyway I finally had to speak up about this series. I started picking this series up with issue one, and it's the best damn comic I've read in a long time. Seriously I place this up there with "Preacher" as my all time favorite comic book.

I always read it last when I pick up my stuff (which is actually a compliment since I always save the best one for last!) As a big fan of Romero's work I think you got it perfect. Except for Thomas being the killer, that was a little predictable. Oh by the way, I never EVER gave a shit about the similarities with 28 days later. It wasn't even really a zombie movie, and I never heard of this role-playing game everybody keeps mentioning. Of course being from a small town in central PA. doesn't help. I totally sympathize with Rick deciding to hang Thomas being the father of three young girls, a nine year old and five year old twins respectfully, I would be tying the knot for him. Being shot was too good for him. Even after the beating! Well, just a few last thoughts for the road. Keep the art black & white. Fast zombies suck ass. and the second aliens start showing up I'll know you've run out of ideas and it's time to find a new favorite book.

Chris Lenkevich

Thanks for the kind words Chris.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

Okay, so unlike the majority of people who read this book and write in to Letter Hacks (and judging by the amount of pages you consistently devote to their musings, that's a LOT of people!), I would not classify myself as a fan of the zombie-genre. Sure, I watched 28 Days Later and Shaun of the Dead was hands down the best film of last year (Hi Simon, if you're reading!), heck I've even had a soft spot for the Thriller video, back when that was the only time Michael Jackson was accused of going bump in the night, but when I read some of the letters sent in by obvious zombie-obsessives, I really do question whether I have a legitimate claim to be reading this book. Fortunately, there's one thing that everyone can appreciate, and that's a well-written comic, where characterization is pushed to the forefront.

Dude, you're worthy. I you need to read this book is three bucks--or a retailer who doesn't mind you standing at the rack for a while. There's not zombie fan elitism at work here. We all love one another equally.

After reading №18 I was interested to read that the characters themselves dictated the direction of the finished story. What a novel idea! And after re-reading the issue again, I was just wondering whether Mr. Moore's cover revealed your initial intentions for this issue before the characters' intervention?

It revealed SOME of the initial intentions. Rick WAS going to hang Thomas. There was a LOT more that got changed though.

Nice cliffhanger, too. Does this mean they're gonna be leaving the prison? It sure seems as though the group are moving to a different locale for each "arc": First the campsite, then the farm, then the prison. It's kinda like The Littlest Hobo...with zombies...and without a dog.

I am unfamiliar with this "Littlest Hobo" you speak of.

Nice work on the trades for this book too, by the way. I like the way they're released so that anyone that picks up the trade and likes what they read is able to then jump straight into the "monthly" book from where they left off. I got the first two trades, then №13 and haven't looked back, and I'm sure there'll be a stack of people who just got the first three trades and will be onboard for the single issues as of №19.

(Incidentally, I've also caught up with Invincible this way, getting the vol.1-4 trades and then picking up №19-21 plus the №0 issue, so now I can keep on with the single issues without missing a beat).

Oh, one last thing: thanks for the character pages this issue. To be honest, I was a little confused by who everyone was while reading the second trade, but after 18 issues I felt a lot more familiar with the characters, but it's a welcome addition with such a big cast. Will it be a semi-regular feature? Maybe run it at the end of each arc to update everyone's situation?

Anyway, I'm done. Keep up the good work, Kirko!

Paul Shinn

I shrank the character pages down from six pages to three so I'll probably print it in EVERY issue from now on--just to be on the safe side.

Hey guys, congrats on the Eisner noms,

Say what you want about readers turning on Rick, but honestly, I just don't like him anymore. Dan Haskell pretty much summed up my feelings on Rick's recent behavior in his letter in TWD №19 and the end of that chapter sealed the deal for me. Suddenly, I want Rick dead. He's messed up. Passing judgement on a killer who was already incarcerated for his crimes (not his fault a bunch of potential victims decided to move in with him - he's already in prison!), unilaterally creating the law of this new world and then breaking said law? And not just breaking it, but killing Dex in cold blood during the middle of a zombie skirmish? No two ways about it, I want Rick's back-shooting, two-faced, double-talking head on a pike, period.

Come now, it can't be all that bad. We're going somewhere with all this--don't worry.

Now having said that, I should also add that this story is amazing page after page and that just because I don't like Rick anymore doesn't mean I'm not enjoying the hell out of this title. If anything, the fact that I now hate Rick is one of the great things about this story. No one is sacred. If he died, I'd go right on reading this book, rooting for Tyreese, Lori, Glenn and everyone else and feeling a smug sense of satisfaction knowing Rick's pushing up daisies. In fact, if anything, it'd do well for the rest of the cast, give 'em a chance to shine. So feel free to ice the self-righteous bastard, won't bother me none and I guarantee I'll keep reading.

One other thing, Gary Timmons asked: "Any good convention horror stories?" and you answered: "Nah, nothing crazy's ever happened to me." and I thought "Oh, I don't know . . . I remember that time you got stabbed in the back by a creepy little killer fetus that lived in his twin brother's stomach." Sorry, I just had to chime in with a plug for HACK/SLASH: COMIC BOOK CARNAGE. After all, isn't it exactly what the lad asked for? A good horror story involving Robert Kirkman at a convention? I'm a huge TWD fan (and successful recruiter of new readers, as well) but I thought I'd take the time to show my buddy Tim Seeley some love (he says he needs it). If you like slashers, zombie cats, zombie bimbos, Evil Ernie or would just love to see Robert Kirkman take a dirt nap, pick up HACK/SLASH!

Oh, yeah... I that book totally slipped my mind when it was coming out--I should have plugged it way more. I'm getting very forgetful in my old age. Tim Seeley is a great guy and Hack/Slash is a very entertaining book. If ANYONE could make me enjoy a comic with Evil Ernie in it--it's Tim... but I make no promises on THAT issue. I'm sure it'll be as good as all the rest though.

My Wednesday started out like any other Wednesday. I go to my favorite comic book shop, here in Montreal, QC Canada, and for like the 19th time I see an issue of the Walking Dead, something I've been wanted to check out but haven't (collecting 15+ books a month is a hefty list for a college student) Then I see 3 TPB's sitting on a shelf, I ask my good friend and store manager, what he thinks. He tells me he's getting a lot of great feedback, so I buy the first volume and go to a coffee place near by to read.

I run back to my comic book store after reading it, and buy volume 2 and 3 as well as issue number 19.

HAH! We got you!!!

They were amazing, I couldn't put them down. I am a zombie fan and a comic book fan. To have a zombie book out there that does the genre justice, is more than just satisfying, it's fucking fantastic.

Everything about the books were great, and true to the zombie genre. The writing is excellent and the art is moving, realistic and just flat out suits the book perfectly.

I just finished number 19 and I am extremely pleased with the series and will continue to read it for as long as you guys keep it going (or up until the zombies start talking, talking zombies are just not cool)

Got it--no talking zombies.

Sincerely,
Jon Maggio

P.S. Congrats to everyone nominated for the Eisner

Thanks so very much, I'm VERY pleased to be--oh wait--oh yeah--I'm sure Charlie Adlard and Tony Moore are very excited.

That's all she wrote folks. I'm spent (after all the beef dip jokes) so I've really got nothing to say here... other than be here next month for big events in issue 21 and check out Invincible and Marvel Team-Up if you haven't already.

Oh, and I'll be at the San Diego Comic-Con, Wizard World Chicago, and the Baltimore Comic-Con this year--so look me up, I promise to shake your hand and smile. I'll probably even give the thumbs up way too many times.

See you next month. Same bat time--same bat channel.

-Robert Kirkman

NÚMERO 20

SALA DE MONTAJE

con Robert Kirkman

COCHE (30) TWD (20)

"~~ÉL ESTÁ JUSTO DETRÁS DE MÍ, ¿VERDAD?~~"

LA VIDA EN LA PRISIÓN EN GENERAL, QUIZÁS MÁS DE LA PRISIÓN.

(1) GLENN MATANDO ZOMBIS. ZOMBIS A TODA PÁGINA DELANTE DE ROPA -- EMPIEZA A HACER CALOR,

(2) MÁS ZOMBIS. MOSTRAR LA PRISIÓN. LA PRISIÓN EXPLORAR "PABELLÓN C."

(3) GLENN MATA UN ZOMBI -- ALUCINANTE! "FUNCIONA." 00 7:00

(4) VE A MAGGIE -- ¿PODEMOS HABLAR? TENEMOS UNA REUNIÓN CON ANDREA. IR "DESPUÉS DE

(5) REUNIÓN CON ANDREA EN LA CAFETERÍA. LLEVA UNIFORME. LA REUNIÓN."

(6) DISCURSO PARA HACER ABRIGOS, PANTALONES CORTOS, ETC...

(7) DESPUÉS DE LA REUNIÓN. ¿RICK + TYREESE CHARLAN? COMENTAN EL REGISTRAR EL PABELLÓN C.

(8) VA A VER CÓMO ESTÁ LORI. ESCENA DE LA PORTADA.

(9) ¿MÁS CON LORI + CARL?

(10) TYREESE + CAROL CHARLAN CON MICHONNE.

(11) MÁS CON MICHONNE.

(12) DALE + ANDREA CHARLANDO "VAMOS A AYUDAR"

(13) AXEL + HERSHEL -- TRABAJANDO LA TIERRA -- CHARLANDO. LE PIDE DISCULPAS POR LO DE THOMAS.

(14) OTIS + PATRICIA CHARLANDO -- "NADIE HABLA CONTIGO." "¿TE IBAS A IR CON ELLOS?"

(15)

(16) ALLEN--VOY CON VOSOTROS. "¿SEGURO QUE TE APUNTAS?"

(17)

(18) SUSTO EN LA BIBLIOTECA.

(19)

(20)

(21)

(22) A TODA PÁGINA -- ES UN GENERADOR.

USAR GREGG

Muy bien... para empezar, voy a reconocer que este es el número donde Otis utiliza la palabra que empieza por N. No es algo que use frecuentemente en mi trabajo. Desde luego aparece más en las primeras temporadas de la serie de TV que en este cómic. Pero está aquí. Cuando leí detenidamente el número, sentí vergüenza... pero creo que sentir esa vergüenza es importante.

Sé que en algunos círculos se está tratando de eliminar esa palabra de la ficción y debo admitir que estoy en contra. Tenemos que recordar cómo se utilizaba esta palabra si queremos tener alguna esperanza de seguir adelante. No soy tan ingenuo para pensar que viviré para ver un mundo post-racismo, pero tengo la esperanza de que al menos es posible. La gente necesita recordar a gente como Otis, quiénes eran, cómo vivían, hasta qué punto era cotidiano su racismo, bajo la superficie. Podrías conocer a alguien como Otis desde hace mucho tiempo y nunca darte cuenta de que había racismo. Estoy dispuesto a apostar que mucha gente que lea esto, conocerá a gente como Otis. En fin... la gente es un asco, sigamos adelante.

Cambiando de tema para hablar de este número, de vez en cuando pienso, "Hace tiempo que no hay acción con zombis" o "Deberíamos contar con algunos zombis para que la gente recuerde que esto es un cómic de zombis" y así es cómo terminamos con escenas como la secuencia inicial de este número. Está claro que fue algo que amplié después de acabar la trama. Así es cómo de buenas a primeras movemos la página 3 a la página 5.

Andrea tiene un discurso bastante largo acerca de ser costurera en la prisión y de hacer ropas con monos y sábanas, etc. Siempre quise que este cómic progresara lentamente hacia un sitio parecido a *Mad Max,* donde la gente se hace su propia ropa y las cosas se vuelven más extrañas a la vista según avanzas. Esta conversación iba a empezar eso. Andrea iba a hacer ropa extraña de fabricación casera para todos. Entonces me di cuenta de que la población había pasado de tantos a tan pocos que, siendo realistas, jamás se quedarían sin ropa. La ropa no se estropea. Es decir... yo tengo una camisa que por lo menos tiene cerca de 30 años... y aún sirve. Así que siguieron llevando ropa normal... en la mayoría de las veces.

Felicitaciones a Charlie por la secuencia lúgubre y fría de la prisión, muchas sombras, marcos de paneles realmente geniales. Es un auténtico maestro de las luces y las sombras, así que mola verle exhibir sus habilidades aquí.

Buen trabajo al joven Kirkman por la transición entre la escena en que muerden a Allen (una sentencia de muerte) y la que Dale dice, "Este debe de ser nuestro día de suerte". Es un buen final para un número que no recurrió al típico final abierto chapucero.

La frase de "Él está justo detrás de mí, ¿verdad?" que está tachada iba a ser una de esas escenas cliché que estoy seguro de que he hecho en otros cómics anterior y posteriormente, cuando alguien dice algo malo de un personaje que está detrás de ellos y lo ha oído todo. Creo que iba a hacerlo con Axel en este número, para mostrar que aún no se fían de él. Creo que lo cambié por la escena en la que Axel habla con Hershel.

Notas de página:

1: "Glenn matando zombis" lo cambié rápidamente por "Zombis a toda página delante de la prisión". Parece que pone "zombis delante de ropa", pero no es más que lo que está escrito en la parte superior serpenteando hacia abajo. Habitualmente, tacho las cosas o indico donde van a ocurrir trazando una línea para dividir las palabras, pero supongo que tenía un poco de prisa.

4: ¡Ese "IR" solitario es tan misterioso para mí como para ti! ¡¿Pero qué hace eso ahí?!

6: Esos abrigos y pantalones cortos eran MUUUUUY importantes.

7: Esta escena la eliminé. No era necesario que Rick hablara con Tyreese en este momento.

8-9: ¿Esta escena existe más o menos solo para justificar la portada dramática que tenía dibujada? Puede. ¿Entonces iba a haber algo más en esta escena que incluyera a Carl? ¡Apenas seguí esta trama!

14: Esta escena la adelanté a la página 9.

22: "A toda página - es un generador". Heh.

VALE... ¿pero qué narices, que le mordieran la pierna a Allen ni siquiera está en la trama? ¿Acaso solo lo escribí en el guion porque me dio un venazo? Si soy sincero... no me acuerdo del todo. No vuelvo a leer estas viejas columnas de cartas que a veces reimprimimos y es posible que lo explique ahí. Pero echando un vistazo a las portadas de los próximos números, estoy bastante seguro de que no estaba planeado. Creo que como tenía ese gran hueco en la trama que veis en la parte de abajo, pensé "Un generador no es un final abierto lo bastante bueno... vamos a agregar algo más" e hice que mordieran a Allen. Momentos divertidos.

Oh, y por último "Usar Gregg". De vez en cuando, pensaba en nombres que no había usado y tomaba nota para usarlos más adelante. Creo que nunca llegué a usar Gregg (con dos Gs) en el cómic. Gregory no cuenta.

Podría mentir y decir que tomé nota por si algún día se hacía una serie de TV, usar a Greg Nicotero y KNB para hacer los efectos de maquillaje, pero aquella genial idea ya la tenía horneada Frank Darebont cuando se unió al equipo.

PORTADA

CHARLIE ADLARD

COLORES: CLIFF RATHBURN

"Estoy MUERTO--¡Estoy MUERTO, JODER!"

DAVID FINCH

TONY MOORE

NÚMERO 21

¡DISPONIBLE 18 DE AGOSTO, 2021!

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